

Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School Parent Advisory Council

419 East 24th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5V 2A2 – Email: tupperpacchair@gmail.com

February 17, 2010

Dear Dr. MacDiarmid,

Our Parent Advisory Council represents the parents/guardians of over 1,000 students who attend Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School in Vancouver. At our February 9, 2010 meeting, our PAC unanimously approved a motion to endorse Vancouver DPAC's February 2 letter expressing the urgent necessity that your government immediately commit to covering all unfunded costs that have been shifted on to local school boards for the 2010-2011 school year.

These downloaded costs will result in a minimum shortfall of \$17 million for our district, an amount that far exceeds anything that our school and our district can cut in discretionary spending. The result is that despite increasing enrolment at Tupper, our students would face reductions to front-line services that would have profound consequences for their education:

- One -third of the teachers at our school have received layoff warning notices
- Our school has been cited in the media as a possible candidate for school closures
- Our district is considering a revised calendar that would reduce student instructional time
- Further reductions to vital educational supports for vulnerable students are also expected.

Our parents are alarmed about the potential consequences and we call on your government to immediately honour the pre-election promise to protect education by committing to cover all unfunded costs facing local school districts, including:

- All salary and benefit increases negotiated by your government
- Carbon tax and offset charges
- MSP and WCP premium increases
- Full-day K and Bill 33 implementation costs.

The education of all of our students – typical, ESL, special needs, aboriginal – will be profoundly impacted by any further cuts to our already-stretched school and district budgets.

On behalf of Tupper's parents, guardians and students, we request your urgent response to these concerns and urge that your government fully fund all provincially-mandated public education costs in the provincial budget to be presented on March 2.

Sincerely,

Deanna Hansen, Chair

Sir Charles Tupper Parent Advisory Council

cc: Premier Gordon Campbell; Finance Minister Colin Hansen; Opposition Leader Carole James; Mable Elmore, MLA; Margaret MacDiarmid, MLA; BCCPAC; Vancouver DPAC